Race Relations - 1928

Improvement of

Alabama

MONTGOMERY'S FUTURE AS SEEN BY THE NEGRO

Editor The Advertiser:

Just recently it has been my privilege to read the autobiography of Dr. Robert R. Moton, the distinguished and worthy principal of Tuskegee Institute. In this volume Dr. Moton referred to the importance as well as wisdom on the part of those in power in using the services of some intelligent member of the colored race in all matters relating to the Negro. I am sure we all agree in this. The Negro's story can best be told by one identified with that group.

There have been many things which contribute to the progress and welfare as well as the development of Montgomery, and I am sure will continue to do so in the future. All of these have been well presented to the readers of The Advertiser.

We think one of the greatest assets Montgomery has is found in its most intelligent and substantial white citizenship which has all to do with the excellent relations which exist between the two races in the city and county. The city has a population of possibly 60,000 inhabitants, the colored population is possibly 25 to 30,000 and amidst it all Montgomery has stood solid and has had fewer differences and friction between the races as is found anywhere in the South.

Our colored citizens as a whole are thrifty and progressive. Among them are found good churches, schools and many other enterprises of note. All worthy enterprises that are being conducted by the colored race in the city receive excellent support and cooperation from its white citizens. In view of these facts together with other excellent opportunities that Montgomery offers her people, we can all join in saying with interest and pride that Montgomery is a good place for all of her citizens. But let us not content ourselves with this goal but let all unite their efforts and aims with one full determination to make Montgomery one of the greatest cities in every way for the good of all her citizens in America.

M. A. BLACKWELL.

Editor-Manager, The Planter, Montgomery, Ala.

D.C.

Race Relations - 1928

Improvement of.

TO PROMOTE INTER-RACIAL GOOD WILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 15—The American Inter-Racial Peace Committee, a new organization in scope, is the joint effort of representative Negroes working in close co-operation with the American Friends' Service Committee to develop and enlist active support in the cause of peace, and to promote the spirit of understanding, goodwill and co-operation between the races in America, "as the basic principle of the Christ-way in life."

3-17-28

The Committee plans to present to the nation and to the world those talents and accomplishments of Negroes that may serve the cause of peace. It will seek for them the open door of fraternal co-operation with all those agencies, industrial, social, religious an d political, devoted to the cause of peace. The Committee will also teach the fundamental equality of all races. Among the prominent colored persons listed as members of the organizations are Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Executive Secretary; Eugene Kinckle Jones, Addie W. Hunton, J. Finley Wilson, W. E. B. Du Bois, Lawrence A. Oxley and Leslie Pinckney Hill. Headquarters are maintained at Philadelphia.

Race Relations-1928 Florida.

Improvement of

FACT FINDING IS NEW POLICY IN SOUTH

Dabney Finds Intelligent Study Is Displacing Hide Bound Tradition.

By THOMAS L. DABNEY

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.—Of the new trends in race relations in the South none will contribute more toward the amelioration of the race problem than the present policy of liberal, intelligent, white and Negro southerners studying race prejudice and race relations objectively.

The old South used to boast of knowing the Negro! The new South is convinced that there is need for an objective, sympathetic study not only of the Negro, but of race relations in general.

New South

The new South seems to recognize the importance of securing facts on race relations and social conditions among Negroes. This recognition is seen in the work of investigation of Negro life and history by the University of North Carolina. Investigation in the field of social service is just beginning in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and other southern states with a view to ascertaining the facts relative to the social conditions surrounding Negro life.

Rosenwald Work

In Georgia, thru generous gifts of Mr. Julius Rosenwald, pioneer work in child welfare study among Negroes has just begun under the direction of four competent social workers of whom 2 are colored. Miss Ethel Cochran, one of the members of the staff, is at present studying truancy among Negro children in Peach and Houston counties, Georgia.

Already Miss Cochran has discovered 94 colored children between the ages of 6 and 16 in these counties who have never attended any school. In order to stimulate more interest in education among these children and their parents Miss Cochcran has started a school for these children.

Facts First

Another study of a slightly differen nature is being conducted in two Georgia counties by the Commission for Interracial Cooperation. This study is being conducted by Mr. Arthur Raper, executive secretary, Georgia State Interracial Committee. The object of this study which is being conducted in Greene and Macon counties, is to get data which will throw some light on the causes and effects of Negro migration. Greene county lost heavily during the Negro migration, while very few Negroes migrated from Macon Co.

In the interview with Mr. Raper he stressed the fact that the Commission's policy in race relations is to get the facts first, after which it can map out its program with more intelligence. The leaders of the Commission feel that the political and general social causes of Negro migration have been stressed out of all proportion to their importance in comparison to the economic causes. While guarding, against any premature judgment. Mr. Raper ventured the statement that the "study at the present stage, altho not complete, seems to suggest definitely that the Negro migration from Georgia was due primarily to economic situations aggravated by racial local conditions.

Race Relations-1928

General.

Improvement of

Race Relation Ideas At Work

Pittsburg Courier
Pittsburg Pa

National Doings and Sayings Of Interracial Significance — Prepared By the Commission On Interracial Co-operations, Atlanta, Ga.

5/19/28

Recent press reports from Stuttgart, Ark., tell of the heroism of a Negro chauffeur who saved the life of his employer at the risk of his own. While the two were driving, the steering gear broke and the car plunged into a drainage ditch. The white man was pinned under the machine, with his head under water. The chauffeur succeeded in reaching him and for ninety minutes held his head out of the water until rescuers came.

* * *

In a community campaign for the building of a Negro hospital in Richmond, the colored people of that city recently pledged $100,000. Efforts are now under way to raise among the white people an additional $100,000. The campaign has the indorsement of the Governor of the State, the Chamber of Commerce, and many prominent white citizens.

* * *

Durham, N. C., recently set a precedent in race relations by a public testimonial to the long and meritorious service in the community of Professor William G. Pearson, colored educator, philanthropist, and business leader. An interracial mass meeting was held under the auspices of a committee appointed by the mayor, at which the secretary of Duke University presented to Professor Pearson a handsome cup.

* * *

The British Government of the Gold Coast, West Africa, has adopted for the natives of that province the educational methods developed by Tuskegee Institute, according to Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisberg, former governor of that colony, who was a recent visitor to the South. "Booker T. Washington has not only helped you here in America," Sir Gordon declared, "but his influence has reached out overseas. We have borrowed and adopted his ideas." The visitor expressed himself as greatly pleased with the progress made by American Negroes in education and the acquirement of property.

* * *

Mayor Walker of New York City recently laid the cornerstone of an $8,000 home and training school for colored nurses, in connection with Lincoln Hospital for Negroes. "Race discrimination must never have a place in the life of our city," said Mayor Walker. "Every man, woman and child coming to a city hospital must be assured of comfort and the best treatment."

* * *

An interesting recent development in Southern cities is the growth of co-operation between white and colored business organizations. For example, mutually helpful relations between the Chamber of Commerce and the Negro Business League are reported from Columbia, S. C., Mobile, New Orleans, Memphis and other cities. The two groups work together in behalf of municipal improvements, business development, etc.

* * *

The South Carolina legislature has recently appropriated $122,000 to the State College for Negroes at Orangeburg, to which there will be added from Federal and other sources $55,000 more, giving the school a budget this year of $177,000. Sixteen years ago its annual income was $5,000.

* * *

The Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Louisville, Kentucky, recently raised $94,000.00 to provide a new building for the Presbyterian Colored Mission in that city. This institution, under the direction of Rev. John Little, has long been recognized as one of the most successful and important enterprises of its kind in the country.

* * *

A Carnegie hero medal is being sought for Bud Francis, 13-year-old Mississippi Negro boy, for saving the lives of three small children who had fallen into an abandoned well. While spectators screamed helplessly, Bud slid down an iron pipe to the bottom of the 40-foot well, pulled the babies out of the water and set them on a ledge, where he guarded them until a basket could be lowered.

* * *

"The real problem raised by the Negro in American life is whether our civilization shall have an ethical basis. Is our Christianity vital enough to meet the situation, or must we depend upon the pagan principles of self-interest and dominance by force? This, rather than the fate of the Negroes, is the fundamental question for the white man to answer."—R. B. Eleazer.

HEROISM NON-DISCRIMINATORY.

The wisdom of some philosopher, in declaring that "Heroes are born, not made," is evidenced each time a heroic deed is brought to light, and, further, it can be truthfully said that the real hero never considers the color of an individual's skin nor the texture of his hair as he directs his act of heroism. Alonzo Williams, a young Negro man of Slidell, La., plunged into the waters of the Chefmenteur River last week and saved the life of a white woman who, with her companion and chauffeur, had gone down in forty feet of water when their car rolled off a ferry. The efforts of the Negro man in struggling with the drowning woman until aid could reach them resulted in her life being saved.

No less heroic was the fine attitude exhibited by six young white men, students of Mercer University at Macon, Ga., when they offered blood from their veins in an effort to save the life of Lee Battle, colored employee of the University for twenty-nine years. The aged colored man suffered an ailment that required a major operation. Attendant physicians discovered that his condition was too weak for the operation and a call for volunteers to offer blood for a transfusion was made. Six young white men responded.

Acts of the kind referred to in both instances plainly show that there is no deep seated enmity between the two races in our land, but on the other hand a spirit of helpfulness exists, out of which grows fine examples of heroism. All of this goes far toward solving in an amicable manner any problems that confront the races and bears out the statement which has been made to the effect that if these so-called problems are kept out of the hands of arrogant and selfish radicals, they will settle themselves.

Race Relations – 1928

Georgia.

Improvement of

SAVANNAH, GA.

News

JUL 31 1928

IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH

In the heart of the South there is no race problem, because the heart of the South has always been warm and sympathetic and right. No possible set of sinister, ulterior circumstances can seriously disturb the cordial relations between the members of the two races in the South, when those members are of the old stock, either veterans of the Old South days or from heredity and training heirs to that unique relation which existed between the white man and the black man in the years before the War Between the States. There is much said these days of "better inter-racial relationship;" there is fine work being done by leaders of both races, here in Savannah and in Georgia and over the South; to cultivate a better, more understanding, sympathetic and co-operative feeling and relationship between the younger generations of whites and blacks. That work is commended.

Supplemental to it, illustrative of its ideals, vitalizing it in a humanly interesting way is the frequently recurring incident such as reports tell of in Fort Valley the other day. There a negro man died; more than a thousand neighbors and friends attended his funeral and paid him tribute of love and respect. The more than a thousand included about as many white people as people of his own race. Ike Miller was once a slave. As a lad he was given his freedom. He remained in the community where the white people knew him, and where he knew them. He became a tenant farmer; he was industrious and law-abiding. He prospered. When he died the other day, at the traditional age of three score and ten, he owned a farm of a thousand acres, possessed in addition realty in a number of places, and had stocks and bonds and cash amounting to a neat fortune. He had what industry alone could not earn, nor shrewdness bargain for: The respect of his neighbors, white and colored, the love of friends by the hundreds. There is your typical finis to the story of the ex-slave who remained among his own people and lived a useful, orderly life, and its radiant flash is the relation of the cordial relationship which existed between him and his people of like character and the white folk who once held his race in slavery.

And this sort of story from the heart of the South is not unusual. There is hardly a small settlement in the South in which in recent years there has not been some such exhibition of the deep-seated friendship between the races. In Savannah it has not been half a dozen years since a veteran colored woman, a member since the sixties of one of the most prominent white churches in Savannah, was buried with funeral services from that church, the pastor conducting the services, the choir which is known far and wide for its artistic standing furnishing the music, and the officers of the church acting as pallbearers, paying tribute to one of "the other" race. These incidents tell their own story.

Race Relations—1928

Georgia.

Improvement of

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
Sunday, April 22, 1928

Colored Population Prosperous, Valued and Contented, in Columbus

Columbus, Georgia, has a contented, prosperous and much valued colored population.

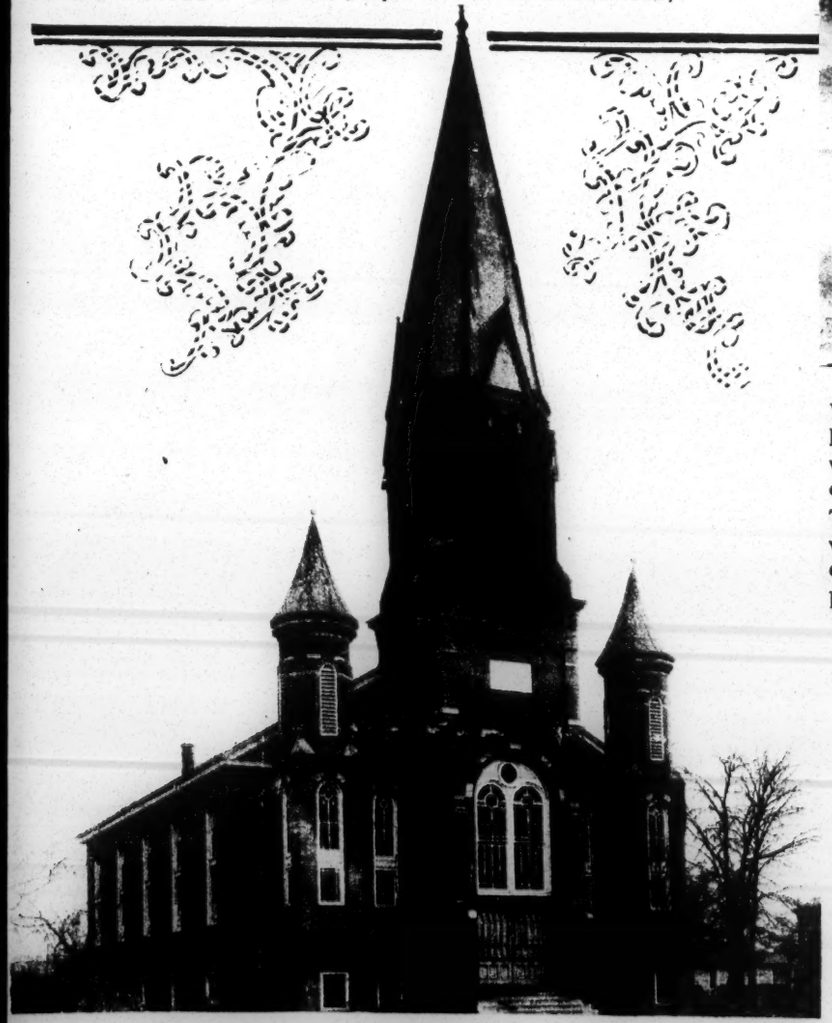
Splendid relations have always existed between the races here, where the negro is treated as a citizen, knows his place and fills it well.

The Columbus negro, as a rule, is a property owner. Local tax digests for 1927 show that the negroes pay taxes on $1,267,680 worth of realty, this being an increase of $81,345 over the 1926 report.

In civic matters, religious and educational activities the colored group is making decided progress in this community. Their schools, a part of the Columbus public system, are well attended and capably officered. The negroes have a large brick Y. M. C. A. building here, it being the gift of Peabody Brothers, of New York. They have numerous churches and many fraternal organizations here, all being prosperous.

One of many outstanding evidences of good relations between the races in Columbus is the construction by the city of a monument in the colored cemetery here over the grave of Bragg Smith, a negro city laborer who lost his life while in the employ of the city.

"Blind Tom," the famous musical prodigy—a blind, ignorant negro slave whose marvelous piano playing amazed two continents—was a Columbus product. His kin people live in Columbus today.



St. James A. M. E. Church on Sixth Avenue.

TAYLOR'S COMMUNITY SINGERS

With a view of bringing about better relations between the races in Columbus and this section, Dr. L. M. Taylor some twelve years ago organized a large choir. "Taylor's Community Singers" was the name adopted, the body being made up of representatives from a number of local colored churches. It is non-denominational.

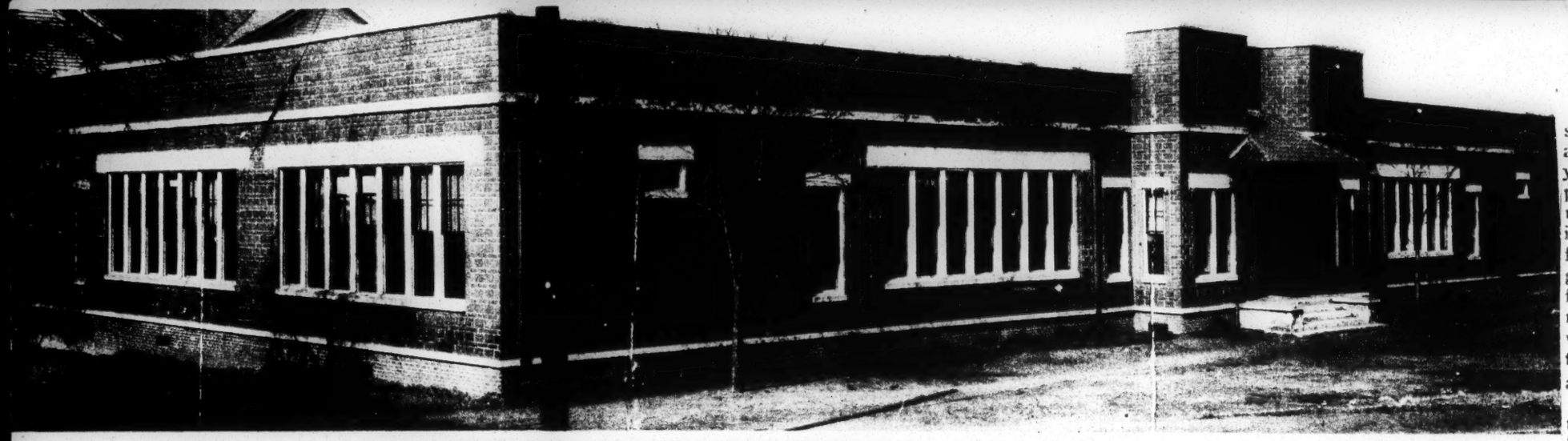
The choir has gained much notoriety by singing at local community functions in public parks where both whites and blacks assembled, and at local civic clubs. During Christmas week the choir sings special carols on the streets, adding much to the spirit of the occasion.

Dr. Taylor, shown in front, has been director since the organization was effected.

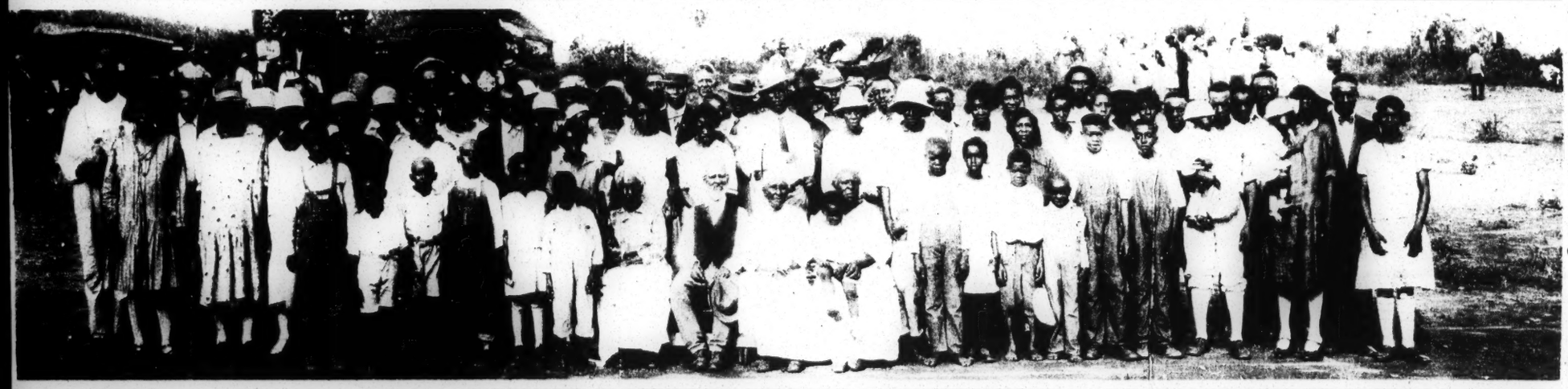
Negro Residents Donate to Andrew College.

One of the heartening features of the Andrew College campaign was the general good will prevailing over the county in regard to the movement and the co-operation given it. Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Catholics and members of no church denomination worked shoulder to shoulder with the Methodists and contributed as liberally. Every town and every section of the county was interested.

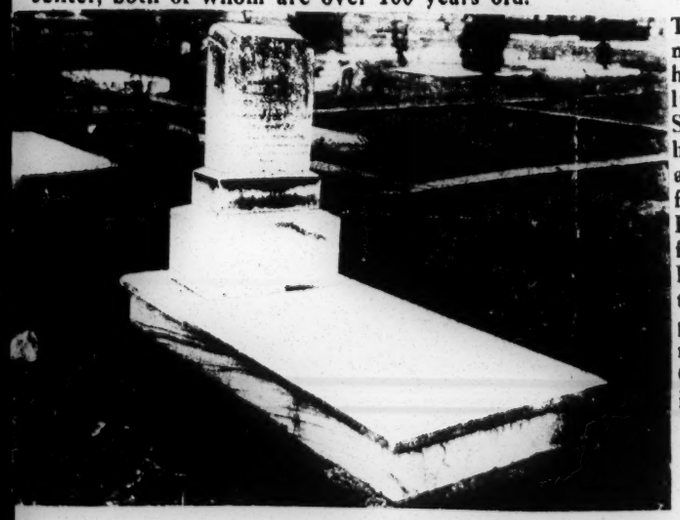
A graceful act worthy of special mention, showing the good feeling existing between the races here, was a donation of $300 voluntarily contributed by seven Negro citizens of Cuthbert. And they purpose to increase this sum to $500. Cuthbert has a number of colored citizens who are a valuable asset to good citizenship and community prosperity.



The Claflin Grammar School, one of new single-story type for colored folk here—a part of the city system. Prof. S. R. Marshall is principal.



Remarkable group of negroes taken in Talbot County—the Barron family. It is claimed that every one in the picture are direct descendants of the aged couple in the center, both of whom are over 100 years old.



This is a photograph of a monument in the colored cemetery here erected by the City of Columbus over the grave of Bragg Smith, negro employee, who lost his life on September 30, 1903, at the age of 32, in a heroic but fruitless effort to rescue City Engineer Robert L. Johnson from a caving excavation on Eleventh street. The excavation had been made for the purpose of laying down sewer connections for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce building.

The Story of Lee Battle

(Greensboro, N. C. Daily News)

The stories from Macon, Ga., describe Lee Battle as a Negro servant of Mercer University for 29 years. He is called "one of the most picturesque characters of the campus." "Every student of the university was known by him. He was their friend. He never missed a football game and was always called upon for a speech. During many year he made countless loans to students, and while the total figure is now substantial, it is said that he has never lost a cent through non-payment.

Every college and university in the south must have its Lee Battles. They are "campus characters." They seem to take on something of the atmosphere of perennial youth about them; and almost without exception they are greatly beloved by students for years after campus days are over.

The other day Lee Battle, the dispatch continues, was taken to a hospital. "A major operation was found necessary to save his life, but his condition was too weak for the operation. Doctors called for volunteers to offer their blood. Six students have responded thus far....

It is not an unusual story. Our guess is that just as there are Lee Battles on every campus, so there would be volunteers on every campus to offer their blood to save the life of any Lee Battle, and to offer it freely and without thought that it was anything unusual. The blood of young white men has been poured out to save the lives of Negro servants before this.

But the story of Lee Battle and his friends is not the kind of story of the "nigger" that is being shouted from political platforms and whispered in political arguments by those who are striving desperately to fire racial hatreds to gain a political end.

Race Relations 1928

Kentucky

Improvement of

Interracially Speaking

By JAMES BOND.

Without the wide publicity generously given by the press of the city and State, the National Negro Health Week program could not have been carried out as it was in Louisville and throughout the State. Reports from every section indicate that the health week this year was more widely and generally observed throughout the State than any preceding health week. It is estimated that a health program was carried out in hundreds of places in more than seventy-five counties, practically every colored school and colored church in the State participating. State, county and city boards of health and boards of education, women's clubs, Y. M. C. A.'s and Y. W. C. A.'s, public health nursing associations, county interracial committees, Parent-Teacher Associations, insurance companies, Boy Scouts, etc., co-operated in making this State-wide observance far-reaching and effective. The publicity given by the Herald-Post was especially generous and effective.

The program in Louisville under the auspices of the Negro Health Week committee of the Health Council of the Community Chest, co-operating with the Kentucky Commission on Interracial Commission, was the most thorough and intensive of any heretofore carried out, culminating in a great mass meeting in Quinn Chapel on the afternoon of April 8, when some 800 school children were present and when Mayor W. B. Harrison awarded blue ribbons to a number of physically perfect children, and when President Davis of West Virginia Institute gave the principal address.

Agencies co-operating in Louisville are as follows: American Red Cross, Louisville chapter; colored division Boy Scouts, City Health Department, Colored Women's Federated Clubs, East End Day Nursery, Falls City Medical Society, Health Council, Inter-Collegiate Medical Association, Kentucky Commission on Interracial Co-operation, Louisville Safety Council, Louisville Tuberculosis Association, ministers, Parent-Teacher associations, Plymouth Settlement House, Presbyterian Colored Mission, Public Health Nursing Association, colored branches public library, public schools, Simmons University, State Board of Health, Sunshine Center; University of Louisville School of Medicine, Urban Leauge, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., insurance companies, manufacturing concerns, etc.

The State Y. M. C. A. reports a successful older colored boys' conference at Providence April 6-8, 1928 This conference closed Sunday afternoon, April 8, in a great mass meeting held at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church when the Rev. Dr. Conway, pastor of the First Baptist Church, white, delivered the closing address. Over a hundred boys and leaders from sixteen high schools were present.

One of the unique features of the conference was the welcome address extended by O'Neal Bannister, president of the white Hi-Y Club at Providence, who said: "I am glad of the privilege of extending a welcome to the colored boys' conference to our city. The white high school boys played a game of ball with the colored high school boys the other day and the white boys beat them. Creigh, president of the colored Hi-Y Club, told me he would get even with me for their defeat. The next day he invited me to deliver this welcome address, and in so doing he did get even with us. We are proud of the colored Hi-Y Club of Providence. Our Hi-Y Club assisted these colored boys in organizing their club, but they have outstripped us in their activities. They register 100 per cent almost every month, but we white boys are proud of this record because we helped to organize them.' The city superintendent of schools also welcomed the colored boys to the city.

Twenty-two first steps were taken by the colored boys. They voted to hold the conference next December in Paducah.

It has been announced by the board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church, U. S. A., that colored members are to carry the Christian religion back to the people in Africa, according to their plans, which have just been mapped out.

JAMES BOND, WRITES

Louisville, Ky.
March 20, 1928

Dr. William J. Hutchins, President
Berea College,
Berea, Ky.

My dear Dr. Hutchins:

You may have read in my "Interracially Speaking" column in the Hearld-Post last Sunday, an account of the attitude of the General Assembly toward the colored people. It is the consensus of opinion of colored men who came in contact with members of the General Assembly that it was the fairest toward colored people of any General Assembly. As Director of the Interracial Commission, I was very deeply and favorably impressed with the fine interracial spirt which pervaded both houses.

More than $500,000 was appropriated to our two state colleges, one at Frankfort and one at Patucah. The appropriation for the Red Cross Sanitarium, Louisville, was increased from five to ten thousand dollars. The Kentucky Home Society for Colored Children's appropriation was increased to $25,000 and and provision was made in the budget for our proposed institution for feeble-minded Negro children. Last but by no means least, House Bill 607 requiring jim crow arrangement on street cars and bus lines, was strangled in the committee to which it was referred and never saw the light of day. Practically all of these measures carrying large appropriations were passed by unanimous vote in both branches of the General Assembly.

One of the most gratifying measures from the viewpoint of the Interracial Commission was the unanimous passage by both houses of a bill increasing the levy of the University of Louisville from 5 to 7 cents on one hundred dollars, thus providing maintenance for the proposed colored department of the University of Louisville for the higher education of Negroes, a project, which as you know, the Interracial Commission has been pushin for the last six years. The plan is well on the way to buy and equip a three-story brick building on Chestnut Street next to the colored high school, now in use as headquarters for the city Board of Education. This can be very well done with the $100,000 set aside from a recent million dollar bond issue for that purpose, and as I have already said, the increase of levy provided for the maintenance.

It has been a long hard fight, especially the struggle for a department for the higher education of Negroes under the control of the University of Louisville and the establishment of an institution for feeble-minded Negro children, and the Interracial Commission has played a very important part in this successful achievement.

During the last six or eight years I have often been discouraged and sometimes on the point of giving up, but encouraged by a band of broad-minded, justice-loving white people, we have continued the fight until victory is within sight.

I have known how intensely interested you have been in these efforts and am taking this opportunity to pass to you the good news.

Wishing you continued health and happiness, I am with cordial good wises

Yours truly,
JAMES BOND
Director Interracial Commission
LOUISVILLE, KY.

Courier

JUL 25 1928

GEORGE COLVIN AND THE NEGROES.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

Permit me to express on behalf of the colored people of Louisville and of Kentucky as well as in my own behalf, the great loss the Negroes sustain in the passing of Dr. George Colvin, president of the University of Louisville. Dr. Colvin in his administration of the common schools of the State as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was pre-eminently fair to the colored people. Indeed it was under his administration that reforms were begun which have materialized in placing colored schools upon a parity with white schools throughout the State as regards salaries, lengths of terms, qualifications of teachers and other important matters. Dr. Colvin was uncompromising in his demands for equal consideration for all of the children of the State without regard to race or other distinctions.

As president of the University of Louisville, Dr. Colvin was thoroughly committed to the movement which began under his predecessor, the late Dr. Ford, to create a department in the University of Louisville for the higher education of Negroes. This new project appealed to his sense of justice and fair play and he lent himself unstintedly to the carrying out of the promises made by the Board of Trustees to the colored citizens and taxpayers. The colored people need have no fear that the policies of Dr. Colvin in this matter will not be carried out, for the Board of Trustees is thoroughly committed to this enterprise and its strong committee under the leadership of Mr. John W. Barr will see to it that every pledge made to the colored people and that every demand of justice and fair play will be met. It is significant and a source of encouragement to the Negro that in his struggles to overcome handicaps and to meet the requirements of good citizenship, he has the sympathy and co-operation of an increasing number of representative white people of whom Dr. Colvin was a splendid type.

As Director of Interracial Commission, of which Dr. Colvin was a distinguished member, I wish to publicly express the sense of loss which the members of the commission feel in the passing of this great educator and to express to the bereaved family the commission's sincere sympathy in this their hour of bereavement.

JAMES BOND.
Director Interracial Commission.
Louisville.

INTERRACIAL WORK IN LOUISVILLE, KY.

LOUISILLE, Ky., Nov. 1.—Three important enterprises of interracial significance are now nearing consummation in this city. Ground has just been broken for the new Grace Presbyterian Church and Community House, for the construction of which the people of Louisville recently subscribed $100,000. The ceremonies of ground breaking were attended by more than eight hundred people and were participated in by many prominent ministers and social workers, white and colored. The new plant will house the community work that has been carried on so successfully for many years under the direction of Dr. John Little. It will contain auditorium, recreation hall, classrooms, gymnasium and public baths.

Another important interracial achievement is the successful completion of a campaign for $65,000 in behalf of the Plymouth Congregational Church, Rev. E. H. Harris, pastor. As in the case of the Presbyterian Community House, the necessary funds were raised by a committee of white citizens representing practically every denomination in the city. Plans are under way to break ground for the new building on Thanksgiving. These two missions will minister to two important centers of Negro life in the city, East and West.

A handsome new county home for the care of dependent colored boys and girls will be opened in January. In a letter to the Interracial Committee, which has been working for this institution, H. V. Bastin, superintendent of the Children's Home, says: "We hope to be able to care for fifty girls and a hundred boys with the new plant, which is being built, however, with a view to an ultimate capacity of twice that number. The building will be in every way equal to and in some ways superior to the white division of the Children's Home." Members of the committee were extended thanks by Mr. Bastin for their work in behalf of the institution and were cordially invited to visit and inspect the plant.

Interracial Cooperation Progresses in Kentucky

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Many evidences of progress were reported at the annual state Interracial conference in this city last week, and the director and executive committee were instructed to continue their efforts for better educational, health and transportation facilities for the colored people of Kentucky. An elaborate two-day program was carried out with an opening address by Governor S. D. Sampson, followed by the report of the director, Dr. Jas. Bonds and addresses by W. H. Fouse of Lexington, L. N. Taylor of the State department of education, Miss Maud L. Harrison and Mrs. Jane Bond of Louisville, Mrs. S. P. Steele of Paris, and Dr. W. W. Alexander of Atlanta. Among the subjects discussed were educational, economic and health conditions, interracial attitudes and reactions, and race relations as affected by home, school and church.

Dr. Bond's report recounted remarkable progress along educational lines in Kentucky during the past year, including the appropriation of more than $600,000 by the legislature for the state normal schools at Frankfort and Paducah; authorization of a tax levy to maintain a colored department of the University of Louisville; expenditure of $800,000 for new Negro schools in that city; notable improvements in colored schools throughout the state. In all these enterprises the interracial committee was active, either in initiating or helping to promote them. Dr. Bond also reported success of the commission's effort to secure an institution for feeble-minded colored children, for which the legislature recently voted $100,000. Another significant phase of the report dealt with the growing interest in race relations on the part of the churches, as indicated by a number of successful interracial ministerial meetings held recently in Louisville.

Courier-Journal

OUTLOOK FOR THE NEGRO.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

Permit me as heretofore to send through the Point of View Column, a New Year's message to the colored people of the State touching some vital questions relating to their progress and growth.

In the first place, the Negroes of Kentucky are to be congratulated upon the evidences of improvement in their condition along the lines of education, health, law and order, good citizenship generally and upon a gradual and perceptible change for the better in the viewpoint and attitude of many white people in the State.

There are, however, many vital questions which confront the Negroes of the State and which should be given by them immediate and serious attention.

Perhaps the outstanding problem confronting the Kentucky Negro is his struggle for economic and industrial independence. In this field conditions are rapidly changing and unless the Negro is able to adjust himself to the new situation and meet the needs and demands of a constantly changing social order, he will be left far behind in his struggle for economic independence. Authenticated statistics show that the Negro is losing ground industrially and economically. This is true of him as an agriculturist and farm owner. He is also losing ground in the occupations that were once by general consent allocated to him, the Negro heretofore being generally accepted as barbers, waiters, cooks, maids, chauffeurs, porters, janitors, bricklayers, etc. The most casual observer must have noticed a very remarkable change in this regard in the last fifteen or twenty years. In fact, the Negro has disappeared almost entirely from many of the jobs that he once by general consent monopolized.

Space will not permit discussion of the various causes of this change. The Negro should individually and collectively seriously set himself to the task of discovering the cause and so far as he is able to apply a remedy. In this connection one might say without successful contradiction that the gulf between the wage-earning and professional Negro such as ministers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, bankers, teachers, insurance and business men generally is much too wide and it requires no philosopher to see that if the props are cut from under the wage-earner at the bottom they are also automatically cut from under the professional Negro, for business and the professions rest in the final analysis upon the masses known as wage-earners. Hence, in their struggle for economic independence the cause of the wage-earning and the professional Negro is one. The law of self-preservation would indicate, therefore, the importance of the getting together of the various groups of which the Negro is composed in his struggle for economic independence.

In the second place the Kentucky Negro is making progress in his struggle for political independence and is to be congratulated upon the fact that his strategic position politically enabled him to escape the rancor of the recent Presidential campaign of which Negro leaders, in an "Appeal to America" said, "In the Presidential campaign of 1928 more than in previous campaign since the War Between the States, the American Negro was treated in a manner which was unfair and discouraging." The Kentucky Negro is learning that to allow a white man or a group of white men to carry the vote of the Negro group around in their pockets is ineffective and in some respects even more degrading than to have no vote at all and, further, that to be independent economically and industrially he must be independent politically.

The Kentucky Negro is to be further congratulated upon the progress made along educational lines. The largest appropriation by half ever made to our State institutions at Frankfort and Paducah which reached approximately $700,000 was made by the recent General Assembly. A long-felt want was supplied by the General Assembly in the appropriation of $100,000 for a feeble-minded institution for colored children and the building programme for colored high schools throughout the State as illustrated by the action of the Boards of Education at Danville, Frankfort, Maysville, Covington, Louisville and other places, calling for an expenditure of approximately $1,500,000, is most encouraging. The new building at the Jefferson County Children's Home accommodating fifty girls and 100 boys and "equal to and in some ways superior to the white division," constitutes additional reason for rejoicing.

But much remains yet to be accomplished, for while equal accommodations and facilities were contemplated by the laws which separated the races in schools, railroads, hospitals, etc., there are in fact no such equal facilities and opportunities provided, the nearest approach being found in the school and library systems of Louisville. One has only to compare the great State University in Lexington for whites and for the maintenance of which Negroes are taxed, with the institutions for colored citizens at Frankfort and Paducah to say nothing of the four great teachers' colleges for whites, to understand the great educational handicaps under which the Kentucky Negro labors. And it is plain that while these inequalities prevail, the Negroes of the State will continue to labor under tremendous difficulties.

The department for the higher education of the Negro under the University of Louisville promised by the Board of Trustees before the bond issue was voted several years ago, still hangs fire. Beyond doubt the untimely death of the late president, Dr. George Colvin, is somewhat responsible for the delay, but now that the money for the building has been set aside and the enabling act gotten through the recent General Assembly authorizing the increase in taxes on $100 from 5 to 7 cents, thus providing among other things for the maintenance of the colored department, colored citizens and their white friends can see no reason for further delay. The following resolution, passed unanimously by the recent annual interracial conference, expresses the sentiment of the Interracial Commission of Kentucky upon this important matter:

In view of the pressing need of college training for Negroes to meet the standards set up by our city and State institutions for professional training, and the restlessness of the colored people themselves, we respectfully but strongly urge the trustees to make every effort to open the department in the fall of 1929.

The high standing of the members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Louisville and of the Interracial Committee appointed to cooperate with the Board of Trustees, composed of Col. P. H. Callahan, Bishop George C. Clements, the Rev. E. G. Harris, Dean R. L. McCready, Miss Alma Schmitt, Dr. H. H. Sweets, the Rev. J. M. Williams and E. S. Lotspeich, will insure to the colored people as speedy action as possible in fulfilling the pledge made to the colored people of the city.

The colored people of the State are hereby reminded that the percentage of sickness and death in the race is far out of proportion to the Negro population and they are therefore urged to wage a persistent all year round campaign in behalf of good health culminating in the State-wide intensive observance of National Negro Health Week, which occurs in 1929, March 31—April 7. With Federal, State, county and city machinery, health and education, already set up and the numerous social agencies, white as well as colored, anxious to co-operate, we should make the 1929 health campaign the most far-reaching and effective in behalf of good health ever waged in the State of Kentucky, for a sick race can never hope to be economically, politically or educationally independent or effective.

In closing this letter to the colored people throughout the State I would urge finally that we seek the active sympathy and co-operation of broad-minded white men and women to be found in every community who believe in justice and fair play and who are not only willing but anxious to co-operate with their colored brethren in removing the handicaps herein set forth as well as others that might be mentioned.

JAMES BOND,
Director Inter-racial Commission,
Louisville.

Race Relations - 1938

Maryland.

Improvement of

SEEK ABOLITION OF THE JIM CROW CAR IN MARYLAND

Maryland Interracial Body Will Also Ask For Equal Pay For Teachers

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 26.—The Maryland Interracial commission in its report to the legislature next month will advocate the repeal of the state jim-crow law.

Agreement upon this as one item in its report was effected at the offiices of U. S. Judge Morris Soper in the Postoffice, Monday.

Other items in the report urge equal pay for colored and Caucasian county teachers doing the same work, and state appropriation for a school for feeble-minded children.

The legislature's adoption of the teachers' equal pay plank involves a change in the minimum pay law striking out the word "white" where it refers to white teachers and repealing the special section applying to colored teachers only.

James Stewart Salisbury declared he understood that opposition to equal pay was due to the fact that colored teachers were not expected to do the same work as Caucasians with the same efficiency.

Do Same Work

State Superintendent of Schools, Albert Cook, replied, that legally and actually colored teachers were doing the same work and some of the best instruction in the state is being done in colored schools.

Members of the commission present included Bishop A. L. Gaines, Dr. George P. Brace, Rev. B. T. Perkins, Annapolis; William L. Fitzgerald, Truly Hatchett, Thomas J. Calloway, Theodore Roberts, Harry E. Parkhurst, Louis Bender, Superintendent Cook, Judge Soper, Dr. John O. Spencer, Chairman; James Stewart Salisbury.

Mr. Roberts reported establishment of an elementary school, grades one to five at the House of Reformation at Cheltenham. Two white teachers devote their entire time to this work, he said.

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Mississippi.

Race Relations-1928

Improvement of

Friday, March 30, 1928

STATE HISTORY TO COME FROM NEGRO

Major Pat Henry Will Supervise Work Done by A. J. Finch

The achievement of the Mississippi negro and the splendid relations existing between the races of this state is being put into book form and will be released shortly.

These pertinent facts have been compiled by Anslem J. Finch, a leading Mississippi negro who is well acquainted with conditions in this state, and who is fair and impartial when it comes to the race question. This idea was brought to Finch when he delivered an address at the Old Soldiers' home at Gulfport several months ago, when his speech was vociferously applauded and he was asked to put a part of his sayings in print.

For several years articles have appeared in magazines expressing the progress of Mississippi and the satisfactory conditions existing between the races, including the Manufacturers' Record which was read throughout the country and was written by Finch. He is also preparing two articles at the present time pertaining to conditions in Mississippi.

It is believed that the Mississippi negro history will serve a good purpose. Prof. W. W. Blackburn, president of Mississippi Negro Teachers association will write the introduction. William H. Holtclaw of Utica and L. J. Rowan of Alcorn college will assist in collecting the proper material.

Major Pat Henry of Brandon has consented to help Finch in getting facts which will be fair and impartial dealing with the Civil war.

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Missouri.

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RACE RELATIONS

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The world is finding race relations the key to many problems. When it discusses peace or commerce, the spectre in the conference is this diffeernce between men not by choice, but by birth. Over most of the world's area this difference can be traced by national, or tribal boundaries, each maintaining that what he does, what he is, is best. Here in America, difference between blacks and whites is the chief aspect of the race problem, the one place where there is friction despite common national interests.

Far-sighted men have realized the economic waste as well as the downright danger. Sensible men have long since turned from the foolish egotism which claims superiority for self, because of race or color. The leadership given Woodrow Wilson in the settlement of the World War was entirely a tribute to his views on race relations. Self-determination, the right of weaker people to a place in the sun, the obligation of strong nations to maintain peace, and all the associated principles are a rebuke to the "superiority" which attempts to collect land and dominion by virtue of race.

The world is waking up from its age-old theories, throwing them off as laboriously as it has changed from personal vengeance to punishment by the community for the sake of correction. But it is changing none the less. For instance in this week there has come to Kansas City Miss Maude Royden, a religious leader from England, who has declared in unmistakable terms the need of new thinking on race relations. She sees good in every race, and asks that good in each be admitted by all others. She wants all to be mutually helpful, with cooperation supplanting envy, jealously and competition.

In discussing Miss Royden's views, the Kansas City Star says:

> But while racial differences cannot and need not be wiped out, they can and should be allowed to manifest themselves without the arousing of antagonism and strife. Racial integrity is a fundamental of civilization and should be preserved. Yet its preservation does not preclude either racial harmony or co-operation.
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> The condition, as Miss Royden says, is the cultivation of tolerance, the substitution of racial good will for racial contempt. It is not an impossible, even an impracticable, condition. It is, in fact, a requirement, the meeting of which will mean reciprocal benefits of far-reaching importance.

In the United States, attempts at better race relations have always run afoul of the charge that Negroes want "social equality" or intermarriage, or something else which is beside the real matter at issue. An interpretation of what Negro thinking is, is given by what Bishop John Gregg of the A. M. E. church has observed in Africa. He says the pure blood native looks with contempt on whites, and mixed bloods, feels he is superior, and honors his tribal customs as a superior basis of man-to-man relations than the aws of the whites.

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The great cause of race prejudice in this country is ignorance. We Negroes, because we work for white people in office, shop and home, are the better informed of the two. But we by ourselves can not carry on interracial work. In other cities men and women sit down together, discuss matters freely differ and meet again. Here in Kansas City young white people are anxious to know about their neighbors. Only this week a large group came down from Kansas University at Lawrence and visited Negro businesses and homes. The curiosity and interest exist. The local interracial group should make the most of it.

JOURNAL
KANSAS, CITY, MO

MAR 26 1928

BETTER FEELING IN RACES SEEN

Negro Scholar Prophecies More Equity and Equality in Political Life.

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Dr. DuBois declared the rise of peoples now submerged in a world of commerce and alien civilization is inevitable.

"The greatest thing happening today," he asserted, "is the surge of the dark races.

"The only alternative is equity and equality in our economic and political machinery. Other races are oppressed now, not because of intrinsic inferiority, but because the white race controls credit, owns machinery and raw materials and controls thereby the avenues to acquisition of the civilization of which it boasts. "All races, all peoples, all interests, must be given a voice in the vital questions of education, establishment of wage scales and the facts of life which actually affect the individual."

INTERRACIAL WORK ENDORSED BY METHODISTS

M. E. Bishops Highly Commend Efforts of Southern Commission to Improve Interracial Conditions

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"As illustrating the possibility of constructive effort in the correction of race prejudice, we would call attention to the remarkable work done by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in a field of unusually delicate relationships and perplexing problems. It is one of the movements which has called constantly for self-restraint and that faith which inspires broad-minded endeavor. We would formally acknowledge our obligation to those who have given themselves to the promotion of this work, and we should not only encourage the Commission to continue effort in its particular field, but also should accept its accomplishment as suggestive of what may be done and ought to be done in bringing other racial groups together. The General Conference has it in its power, by the promotion of such agencies, to strengthen in a significant measure the bonds of interracial goodwill."

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Race Relations- 1928

Improvement of.

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RACE RELATION LEADER

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The choice of Joseph Myers to head the race relations commission of the Council of Churches is most welcome. Rev. Myers—associated with Dr. Burris Jenkins in the pastorate of the Linwood Boulevard Christian church—is already the president of the local Urban League, a movement to build up the Negro industrially. He has the contact, he has the training, he has the heart to make an ideal leader in getting the races to understand each other.

Inter-racial effort hitherto in Kansas City has not made headway. No matter why, it has not brought the races to an understanding in their housing, in their employment, not even in their street car manners. To most whites in this city, we are a mysterious people. Mary or John whom they meet is a person, but Mary's or John's family living somewhere north of 27th street have no share in their thinking.

For years this withdrawal, each into its own thoughts has been going on in both races. Negroes have met every jibe from whites, with one of their own making. We have the lesser power and what we think has not counted so heavily, but we have done our part to make Kansas City a truce, not a comradeship.

The races will continue to follow certain separate ways from habit and from choice, but they should begin to get together to put over the community's business. There is no white, nor black charity, nor business, nor health, nor peace, nor law. The most vital principles are common to all of us, and defective unless we each bear our share. The division of the city into races is a mischievous and unprofitable arrangement. Some sound thinker like Joseph Myers has long been needed to show our business men, our labor leaders, and our churches of both races what profit we could gain if we would only be human instead of insisting on being white, or black.

Methodist Interracial Efforts Win Praise

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Race Relations—1928

New York,

Improvement of

NEW YORK WORLD

APR 1 1928

Negro Minister Fills Pulpit at Vassar

Rev. Dr. Howard Thurston Is First of His Race to Do So

By Lester A. Walton

DR. HENRY NOBLE MacCRACKEN President of Vassar College, is known as an uncompromising foe of intolerance. He enjoys a reputation for consistency in that he practices what he preaches.

His latest public slap at bigotry and illiberality was in having Rev. Howard Thurston, a Negro minister of Oberlin O., fill the pulpit at Sunday morning services.

The spectacle of a Negro preaching the Word of God to members of the faculty and the students of Vassar was unprecedented. It had never happened before in the sixty-seven years of the institution's history.

Nowadays the appearance of Negro men and women speakers at leading colleges and universities is not unusual. They are usually invited to discuss some phase of the race question. But the Rev. Howard Thurston went to Poughkeepsie to talk on theology and not racial progress, disfranchisement, Jim Crowism or the migration.

The Rev. Dr. Thurston, in his early thirties, is a graduate of Morehouse College, Atlanta. Two years ago, after finishing the Theological Department at Rochester University, he was called to the pastorate of the Zion Baptist Church, Oberlin. He is black and of unmixed blood, is six feet tall and weighs nearly 200 pounds.

Last summer Dr. MacCracken attended the Negro Baptist Convention at Detroit and heard the Rev. Dr. Thurston preach a sermon that deeply stirred a large audience. It was delivered with dignity, yet forcefully and eloquently. The President of Vassar made up his mind he would have the young Negro minister speak at chapel when the first opportunity presented itself.

At Vassar the Rev. Dr. Thurston took his text from Jeremiah, chapter xvii. He contrasted people living on barren ground and who inhabit the parched places in the wilderness with those living like a tree planted by the waters.

In alluding to the characteristics of the former or those who do not live with God, the speaker said they were not bad and may be good. He quoted Prof. Rouschenbush, who said, "Some people are very good but not good enough to disturb the devil."

People in this category are careful observers of the moral teachings of Jesus Christ but not of the religious teachings, it was asserted. They have a high grade of intolerance. As an illustration the Rev. Dr. Thurston cited the parable of the Pharisee and the publican—the former who would let God know how good he was and who left the temple the same as he entered, while the latter was forgiven.

The promise of those who live apart from God is built on a false sense of security, the speaker pointed out. He recited the parable of the young man who went to Jesus asking for the secret life eternal. He had broken all commandments. Jesus replied that since he had been taking chances with his security he also could take chances with Him.

Those living like a tree planted by the waters have a personal dedication and devotion to things and deeds and look upon life not from their own level but from a higher level. They see God first and all life becomes clear. Such people have an almighty affection which is not a cheap, blind sentiment, but a certain intelligent and undisturbed mind. For perfect love is perfect knowledge. Reference was made to the mother who, because of her love for her child, has understanding knowledge of him.

The speaker recited the parable of the woman taken in adultery being brought before Jesus, who took her as she was and treated her as what she ought to be. He said people living with God have an unaffecting sympathy, and told of a man who was in prison with Eugene V. Debs, as having said the late Socialist leader was "the only Christ I ever saw."

"Disregarding political or religious opinions, one must realize there was something to Eugene V. Debs," he declared.

Commenting further on people living like a tree planted by the waters, the Rev. Dr. Thurston said they showed a willingness to suffer in order to make the unideal situation ideal. They have a simple trust in God.

Members of the Association of Trade and Commerce, No. 2370 Seventh Avenue, were urged a few evenings ago to help make Negro business men more efficient by J. A. Jackson, a former resident of Harlem and now a special agent at Washington in the Department of Commerce.

An inefficient business man is a drawback to himself and the community, Mr. Jackson said, for bad bills and credit react unfavorably on the entire neighborhood.

"If business men of the race are to increase and not merely hold on to their trade they must wake up and be prepared to compete with the other fellow," counselled the Department of Commerce representative. "And this only can be done with efficient management, courteous service and other newer and modern factors with which successful merchandising is dependent.

"Candor is essential if we would know our weakness and properly evaluate our strength. We must cease to expect the views of our business to be presented always through rose-colored glasses."

Special Agent Jackson said the Negro retail market was the largest single class market in America that is undeveloped and that Harlem represents the largest single unit.

HOWARD PREXY AT N. Y. UNIVERSITY

New York City.—(ANP)—Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, urged the students of New York University to study the achievements of the Negro race in America in order that they might know more of this race and better understand the problems faced by Negroes of this country.

Dr. Johnson spoke to the faculty and students of the university here Tuesday morning on "The Conquest of Prejudice." He pointed to the manner in which progress along practically every line could be retarded by prejudice and declared that the major task of the youth of this generation is the human task of overcoming prejudices and uniting separated groups of mankind in cooperative enterprise.